

Dhaka Day by Day

Thanks to Surat for One Thing

by Lamis Hossain

Why criticize Surat when we have a garbage problem festering in our own backyards? Rubbish strewn on the city streets and containers spilling over with chicken innards, vegetable peels, chewed bones, egg shells, plastic bags make our city a prime breeding ground for disease.

We may be quick to condemn the Dhaka City Corporation for the mess, but it, in turn, blames us. Well, some of us at least, the DCC's Public Relations Officer claims. "The problem is due to garbage disposal at the wrong time and the wrong place. We take the refuse away but the public keep throwing it, whenever and wherever they please". The authorities believe that they fulfil their side of the bargain by clearing garbage everyday, in two shifts: 6am-2pm for most of the city, and after 6pm for Motijheel and Old Dhaka, according to the normal timetable.

tera", loosely translated as stiff-necked, is his explanation for the public problem. People know that the city should be kept clean, but Dhakaites stubbornly adhere to their old habits. "Ask any street hawker if he knows when and where he should dispose of his garbage, and he will reply, 'Yes'", the PR officer explains. "But ask him whether he follows it and you'll get a shrug and an excuse". Draconian laws like Singapore may be the only solution for us.

Inborn national obstinacy could be partly at fault, but the publicity efforts of the DCC have not been impressive either. There are no TV ads on keeping the country clean akin to, say, the 'plant a tree' campaign. "Do you know how expensive TV ads are?" The PR official retorts. "A 60 seconds spot costs Tk 28,000. Important civic messages should be given free



A garbage heap in Dhaka —Star Photo

There is some truth to their allegations that Dhaka inhabitants lack civic sense. In developed countries, such as Japan and England, the environmental message is so effective that you feel ashamed to throw anything outside the provided bins. How can you pollute Her Majesty's homeland, when there are 'Keep Britain Tidy' signs staring at you everywhere? The occasional littering is done very surreptitiously — by pretending that the rubbish has accidentally escaped your hands. You then have to live with the guilt.

In Dhaka, people litter openly and freely, with a clean conscience. Car windows are rolled down to spit out betel leaves or to discard banana peels, used tissues and candy wrappers. Our streets are treated like national garbage bins.

At home, we entrust servants with the disposal of household waste, which they offload in front of someone else's house or anywhere other than the designated location. Others follow suit and soon, a clean area becomes an unofficial dumping ground. Home owners need to appreciate the value of a hygienic environment themselves, before they can teach their servants.

Residential areas have also been turned into farms. Stray dogs and chickens rummage through trash containers and spread the detritus, while empty plots are used to rear cows which defecate along the streets.

Yet, surely the public's behaviour indicates the DCC's failure to instill awareness among the people? "Public awareness is lacking, but we have tried and we are continuing our efforts", the Public Relations Officer replies. "Gharer rog

air-time by the government."

Funding is a sore issue. The DCC officials claim that government cooperation is lacking. "We need more financial assistance and subsidy to modernize Dhaka. Even following the plague scare, there has been no assurances to increase long-term funds. The World Bank is currently financing the purchase of containers and trucks. A 12 per cent tax is also levied from home owners, two per cent of which goes towards conservancy. The World Bank has suggested that two per cent is too low", the DCC official informs. "But there are no plans to increase the tax as it will be difficult to persuade the already reluctant home owners".

If a trash truck is spotted in the city, it is usually carrying the ghastly load at the worst possible time. The smell of waste putrefying under the hot midday sun reaches your nose while you are stuck in a traffic jam.

The Corporation officials admit that they have failed to motivate the public to a certain extent. They acknowledge that DCC is not immune from the general slackness prevalent in Bangladesh, but the plague scare has propelled them into action. An emergency meeting with the Anti-Plague Committee decided, among other things, to clear all garbage by 5pm everyday. This, however, is part of an emergency measure and not a long term plan. Future proposals include implementing existing penalties of imprisonment and fines.

We can only wait and see whether the fear of plague will lead to permanent improvements in DCC policies and fundamental changes in public attitude. If so, we can thank Surat for one thing at least.

Children's Day observed

World Children's Day was observed in the country yesterday with a call for creating awareness about the rights of children, reports UNB.

The day has been observed globally on the first Monday of October every year since 1953.

To mark the day, government and non-government organisations organised elaborate programmes including discussion, cultural function, film show and essay, art and drawing competitions.

Among the government programmes was a colourful children's procession brought out from the Shishu Academy premises in the morning. State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Sarwar Rahman led the procession organised by her ministry.

The children carried placards, festoons and banners with slogans like "Stop Child Repression" and "Punish the

Oppressors". They also demanded security for handicapped children, their right to education and safe shelter for all children.

Shishu Academy organised a discussion and a children's drawing competition at its premises.

She said children are the future hope of the world and everybody should try to ensure their well-being so that they are not deprived of their rights.

Presided over by Women and Children Affairs Secretary Mohammad Enamul Haq, the function was addressed, among others, by UNDP resident representative Eni Watanabe and director of Shishu Academy Mohammad Mohsin.

Sarwar distributed prizes among the winners of the drawing competition participated by more than 500 children.



Visitors at a photographic exhibition of Altaf Hossain at Hotel Purbani International in the city yesterday. —Star photo

Tk 159cr collected as revenue in last fiscal

RAJSHAHI, Oct 3: Customs Excise and VAT Collectorate collected Tk 159 crore during the 1993-94 fiscal year, some 25 per cent higher than that of the previous fiscal, reports UNB.

This was revealed at a meeting of the Rajshahi Customs Excise and VAT Collectorate at the Circuit House conference room today. State Minister for Finance Advocate Mujibur Rahman was in the chair.

Of the total revenue, Tk 97 crore came from VAT and Excise sources and the remaining Tk 62 crore from Customs duties, the meeting

was informed.

Revenue from Customs sources grew 122 per cent and from VAT and Excise 25 per cent in 1993-94 over the previous year turn over.

The meeting was further informed that during the first two months (July-August) of the current fiscal, the Collectorate collected Tk 29 crore about Tk 11 crore higher than the monthly target.

Addressing the meeting Mujibur Rahman called upon the Customs officials to increase revenue earnings for ensuring well-being of the people.

"The more we can contribute our own revenue earning to development, the more we will be able to ensure well-being of the people," he added.

Referring to the fixing of 39 per cent contribution to the current budget as target, the State Minister said government has given utmost priority to increase revenue earning for reducing dependency on foreign aid.

He urged the officials to strengthen vigilance and preventive measures to check tax evasion for collection of more revenue.

Collector Tajul Islam, Additional Collector Firoj Ahmed and Joint-Collector Nasiruddin were present during the meeting.

US comedy on BTV today

The Bangladesh Television (BTV) will telecast today a show titled 'A Journey through American Comedy', performed by a distinguished US theatre group — Artists Repertory Theatre (ART), says a USIS press release issued in Dhaka yesterday.

Directed by the company's director, Allen Nause, "this rousing look at the battle of the sexes" explores romance, relationships and marriage through American comedy. A company-created production, "A Journey through American Comedy" combines American contemporary playwrights and satirical writers using poems, plays, stories, jokes, limericks and lyrics, it added.

During its recent visit to Dhaka, ART gave a spectacular performance of Edward Albee's "Three Tall Women" for an overflow audience at the National Museum. Now BTV viewers will have an opportunity to enjoy the lighter side of ART's 60-minute performance skills, at 8:35 pm.

Kuwaiti Armed forces chief visits Staff College

The Chief of Staff, Kuwait Armed Forces, Major General Ali Muhammad Hasan Al Momen, visited the Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) at Mirpur yesterday, says a press release.

He was briefed on the activities of the college and was taken round different syndicates, library and the facilities of the highest seat of military learning in Bangladesh.

Earlier, on his arrival at the college the visiting General was received by the acting commandant of the Defence Services Command and Staff College Commodore Zulfiqar Ali.

General Ali Al Momen and members of his entourage later went to Chittagong and visited the local naval base BNS Isha Khan. On his arrival at the BNS Isha Khan, he was received by Commodore Commanding, Chittagong, Commodore M N Islam.

Later, the visiting army delegates visited Kaptai.

Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim, Bir Bikram, joined Major General Ali Al Momen during his visit to Kaptai.

Anti-plague committee formed in Khulna

KHULNA, Oct 3: A divisional anti-plague committee was formed today with Khulna city Mayor Shaikh Tayebur Rahmap as convener for preventing outbreak of the deadly disease in the division, reports UNB.

Other members of the committee are: divisional commissioner, DIG of police, BDR sector commander, deputy commissioners, police super and civil surgeons of the districts in the division and chairman of different pourashavas. Director of divisional health services will act as member secretary.

Besides, the city corporation will launch a special garbage cleaning and rat eradication drive.

USIS worldnet dialogue today

By Staff Correspondent

The United States Information Service (USIS) will organise a worldnet live, satellite dialogue on Population and Development today at the American Cultural Center auditorium at 5:30 pm, says a press release.

The one-hour worldnet discussion is a follow-up to the Cairo Conference.

The live satellite discussion will link Dr Faith Mitchell, in the US Information Agency's Worldnet Studios in Washington, DC with participants in Dhaka, Lahore and Islamabad.

Dhaka panelists for this programme will be Dr Halida Hanum Akhter, Director, Bangladesh Institute of Research for Promotion of Essential & Reproductive Health & Technologies, and Mrs Nasreen Huq, Senior Technological Advisor, Helen Keller International and member, Naripakkha, a prominent women's organisation.

Committee formed

A 27-member executive committee of 'Bangabandhu Gabbhushana Sangstha' was formed in the city Sunday with noted educationist Dr Mazharul Islam as the chairman and Abir Ahad as the secretary general, reports BSS.

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Thai envoy meets Noman

Thai Ambassador to Bangladesh Sunthorn Vidhyameth called on Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman at his office in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

During the meeting, they discussed various issues of mutual interests and exchanged views on fisheries and live stock development of the two countries.

Noman mentioned the success of Thailand in fisheries and said there was enough opportunity for Bangladesh to apply the Thai experience in developing its fisheries sector.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers are likely at one or two places over Chittagong and Barisal divisions and regions of Rangpur and Bogra during the next 24 hours till 6:00 pm today, reports UNB.

The weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere across the country with partially cloudy sky.

The sun sets today at 5:43 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:52 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity in some major cities and towns recorded during the last 24 hours are given below:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.4	25.5	78	73
Chittagong	33.0	25.2	80	77
Khulna	34.0	25.4	81	85
Rajshahi	31.3	25.6	80	85

ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশন, ঢাকা

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন
আপনার শিশুর টিকা দিন

পুনঃ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশনের অধীনে নিম্নবর্ণিত পদ সরাসরি নিয়োগের মাধ্যমে পূরণের জন্য বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিকদের নিকট হইতে দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাইতেছে:

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম	পদের সংখ্যা	বেতন স্কেল-১৯৯১ইং	বয়স	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা
৩০০০	ওয়ার্ড সচিব	২০	১২০০-৭৫০০-১৬২০/- ইবি-১১৫৬৫-২০০৫/-	১৮ হইতে ৩০ বছর	শিক্ষাগত দিক হইতে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক পরীক্ষায় ২য় বিভাগে উত্তীর্ণ হইতে হইবে

শর্তাবলী:

- প্রার্থীদেরকে (১) নাম (বড় হরফে), (২) পিতার নাম (৩) জন্ম তারিখ (৪) বর্তমান ঠিকানা (৫) স্থায়ী ঠিকানা (৬) শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা (৭) জাতীয়তা (৮) অভিজ্ঞতা ইত্যাদি উল্লেখসহ সদা কাগজে আবেদন করিতে হইবে।
- দরখাস্তের সহিত অবশ্যই (১) শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা/পেশাগত যোগ্যতার সার্টিফিকেট/সম্মানের সত্যায়িত কপি (২) জাতীয়তা সার্টিফিকেট (৩) ২ (দুই) জন প্রথম শ্রেণীর পেজেন্টেড অফিসারের নিকট হইতে দুইটি চরিত্রগত সার্টিফিকেট (৪) অভিজ্ঞতার সার্টিফিকেট (যদি থাকে) (৫) ২ (দুই) কপি সদা তোলা সত্যায়িত পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি (৬) মেসার, ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশনের অনুকূলে ১০ (দশ) টাকা মূল্যমানের ব্যাংক ডাফট/পে-অর্ডার/অফিসের চেক/সংযোগ করিয়া দিতে হইবে।
- যাহারা কর্তৃত্ব আছেন, তাহাদেরকে যথায় কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করিতে হইবে।
- আপাদী ১২/১০/৯৪ইং তারিখের মধ্যে দরখাস্তসমূহ ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশনের সচিবের দপ্তরে পৌঁছাইতে হইবে।
- অসমাপ্ত বা বিলম্ব প্রাপ্ত আবেদনপত্র প্রত্যাখ্যাত হইবে না।
- বিজ্ঞাপিত পদের পদের সংখ্যা কমিতে ও বাড়িতে পারে।
- ১০-৪-৯৪ইং তারিখে নির্মিত পরিচয় পত্র/পরিচয় বিজ্ঞপ্তির প্রেক্ষিতে প্রয়োজনীয় শর্তাবলী পূরণ করিয়া যাহারা এই পদের জন্য পূর্বে আবেদনপত্র দাখিল করিয়াছিলেন, বর্তমান বিজ্ঞপ্তির প্রেক্ষিতে তাহাদের পুনরায় আবেদনপত্র দাখিল করার কোন প্রয়োজন নাই। তাহাদের পূর্ব দাখিলকৃত আবেদনপত্র যথার্থীকৃত বহাল থাকিবে।

সচিব

ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশন, ঢাকা।

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